

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 8, 2004.

Housekeeping Matters

Initially, it is noted that applicant has not yet received an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 corresponding to the IDS filed October 23, 2003. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner confirm that this IDS has been considered by provided the undersigned with an initialed copy of the corresponding PTO-1449.

Additionally, there are a few minor typographical errors on some of the initialed PTO-1449 forms that have been provided by the Examiner. Corrections of these PTO-1449 forms are attached hereto if the Examiner should deem the same necessary.

Allowable Subject Matter Added to Claim 1

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 23-24 contain allowable subject matter. In this regard, subject matter of allowable claim 23 has been added to claim 1. Thus, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

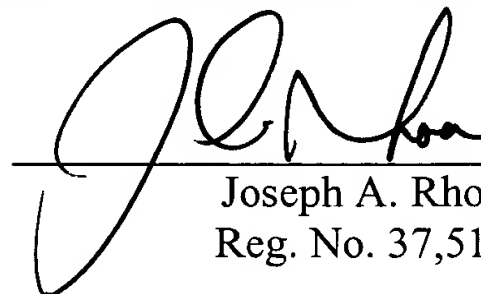
If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

MAKITA et al.
Appl. No. 09/667,527
April 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Rhoa", is written over a horizontal line.

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Reg. No. 37,515

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